




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Local Government Managers Australia, Queensland Awards for Excellence

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.10 am): Last month I was honoured to attend the Local Government Managers Australia, or LGMA, Queensland Awards for Excellence. What a breath of fresh air it was—good people, great ideas and impressive work. There was innovation and collaboration to burn. This is stuff that should be making headlines for local government right across Queensland.

One of Queensland's smallest councils as well as Queensland's largest council were among those recognised for their dedication, service and initiative across eight categories. Our councils work tirelessly for their communities with little fanfare, so it is fitting to acknowledge those that have exceeded expectations and the officers who have done all of the work. Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council is one of our smallest local government areas in population but it won big, taking out the award for Innovation for its emergency management and community forum. It was one of the highlights of the night to watch Eileen Deemal-Hall, the CEO of Wujal Wujal, receive the award and to see how much the recognition meant to her and to her council.

Mackay Regional Council was another to be recognised with the Teamwork award for securing the opening concert of Sir Elton John's *Once in a Lifetime* tour last year and, more importantly, capitalising on it to deliver a festival of events around the concert. I was fortunate to personally present the collaboration award to the Central Highlands Regional Council and its partnership with the Central Highlands Development Corporation for its exciting Accelerate Agribusiness project involving forums, documentaries and fine dining.

In the south-east, Brisbane City Council was the 2018 winner of the excellence in Workplace Wellbeing category for its wellness programs. All eight award winners typify the enormous strength and resourcefulness of local government in Queensland and show just what can be achieved regardless of size or remoteness.

Let us celebrate the best in local government and get behind those councils that will represent our great state in the national awards for excellence in local government. I wish all the awardees all the best for their progress in the national awards. Honourable members should know that Queensland is definitely fighting above its weight.